Development of cities as Tourist Centres in Tamil Nadu

2798. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state that the number and the details of cities Government are contemplating to develop from the tourist point of view in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/spots is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Govt. of India provides financial assistance for the identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the Tenth Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the State of Tamil Nadu. During the financial year 2002-2003, Mahabalipuram has been identified for development as a *major tourist destination.*

New heritage sites

2799. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating new circuits to attract tourists to heritage sites in order to provide fresh impetus to Indian tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the heritage sites have been selected in consultation with the various State Governments and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan the Department of Tourism proposes to identify six tourism circuits in the country annually and develop the facilities in these circuits to international

standards. During the current year following six circuits have been identified for development in consultation with the State Governments:

(i) Eastern Region-(Buddhist Circuit): Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda-Varanasi.

(ii) Northern Region-(Himalayan Circuit)

Route I-Chandigarh-Bilaspur-Kullu-Manali-Rohtang La-Keylong-Sarchu-Upshi-Leh.

Route II-Shimla-Sangla-Kaza-Chatru-Keylong-Sarchu-Yashi-Leh.

(iii) Central Circuit-(Heritage, Nature and Wildlife Circuit): Gwalior-Shivpuri-Chanderi-Orcha-Khajuraho-Jhansi-Bhopal-Sanchi and surrounding Buddhist areas-Bhimbetka-Pachmarhi-Kanha Jabalpur (Bhedaghat).

(iv) Western Circuit-(Konkan Riviera Circuit): Bombay-Alibagh (Mandva)-Muradjanjira-Ganapatipule-Vijaydurg-Mithibad-Kunkeshwar-Mochetmad-Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Shiroda-Savantwadi-Amboli-Goa-Coastal Karnataka-Bekal.

(v) Southern Circuit-(Backwater and Beach Circuit): Cochin-Kumarakom-(Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam).

(vi) North-East Circuit-(Eco-Tourism Circuit): Shillong-Guwahati-Kaziranga-Tezpur-Bhalakpung-Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)-Majuli-Sibsagar-Kohima.

Encroachment near Birla Mandir, New Delhi

†2800. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that due to illegal encroachments, open toilets etc. between the Birla Mandir, New Delhi and Udyan Marg the tourists have to face a lot of problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by his Ministry to tackle the said situation and to provide clean and good environment to the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) the area around Mandir Marg and Udyan Marg does not have any unauthorized encroachment. Some Jhuggies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.